



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
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CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION
1-800-368-8808 or 304-558-8986

Press Release

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**ATTORNEY GENERAL DARRELL MCGRAW
FILES LAWSUIT TO ENFORCE SUBPOENA AGAINST
OUT-OF-STATE DEBT COLLECTOR**

Attorney General Darrell McGraw filed a lawsuit today asking the Circuit Court of Kanawha County to compel Phillips & Cohen Associates, Ltd., a New Jersey collection agency, to comply with the Attorney General's investigative subpoena. The Attorney General began investigating Phillips & Cohens' debt collection practices after receiving complaints from consumers that it was threatening consumers with jail, discussing the alleged debts with persons other than the consumers, and attempting to collect money for debts that have already been paid. Phillips & Cohen is not registered to do business in West Virginia and has not posted a bond, a requirement for all collection agencies doing business in the state.

"Rogue collection agencies will not be allowed to harass and threaten West Virginia consumers," stated Attorney General McGraw. "Any consumers who receive repeated telephone calls from debt collectors or have debt collectors threaten them with jail or criminal prosecution should contact my Consumer Protection Division."

Consumers needing assistance are encouraged to call Attorney General McGraw's Consumer Protection Division at 1-800-368-8808 or 304-558-8986.

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